

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
MIAMI DIVISION

CASE NO. 07-21221-CIV-ALTONAGA/BROWN

RENEE BLASZKOWSKI, et al.,
individually and on behalf of others
similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

MARS, INCORPORATED, et al.,

Defendants.

_____ /

**DECLARATION OF D. JEFFREY IRELAND CONCERNING
STATUS REPORT AND NOTICE OF THE
DEFENDANTS' PROPOSED PLAN OF SEQUENCED DISCOVERY**

STATE OF OHIO)
) SS:
COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY)

D. Jeffrey Ireland declares:

1. I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Ohio. I am an attorney for Defendant The Iams Company in the above-captioned matter. I am making this Declaration based upon personal knowledge and am competent to testify in the matters stated below.

2. On July 3, 2008, Craig Hoover (counsel for Nestle Purina Petcare Company) sent an email to Catherine MacIvor and Patrick Keegan (counsel for Plaintiffs)

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Exhibit 1
Ireland Decl.

regarding the scheduling of a meet and confer. I received a copy of the July 3, 2008 email.

Attached as Exhibit A to this Declaration is a true and accurate copy of the July 3, 2008 email.

3. On July 8, 2008, Phil Sechler (counsel for Mars, Incorporated, Mars Petcare U.S., Inc. and Nutro Products, Inc.) sent a letter via email and regular U.S. mail to Catherine MacIvor and Patrick Keegan regarding a meeting to discuss sequenced discovery and other discovery issues. I received copies of the July 8, 2008 letter and cover email. Attached as Exhibit B to this Declaration are true and accurate copies of the July 8, 2008 letter and cover email.

4. On July 9, 2008, Kristen Caverly (counsel for Natura Pet Products, Inc.) sent an email to Patrick Keegan and Jason Baker regarding a meet and confer on the sequencing of discovery and other discovery disputes. I received a copy of the July 9, 2008 email. Attached as Exhibit C to this Declaration is a true and accurate copy of the July 9, 2008 email.

5. On July 9 and 11, 2008, Patrick Keegan sent letters via email to Phil Sechler regarding the July 15, 2008 teleconference between the Parties' counsel and a stay of this action. I received a copy of the July 9 and 11, 2008 letters and cover emails. Attached as Exhibits D and F to this Declaration are true and accurate copies of the July 9, 2008 letter and cover email and the July 11, 2008 letter and cover email, respectively.

6. On July 10, 2008, Phil Sechler sent a letter via email and Federal Express to Patrick Keegan regarding the July 15, 2008 teleconference between the Parties' counsel. I received copies of the July 10, 2008 letter and cover email. Attached as Exhibit E to this Declaration are true and accurate copies of the July 10, 2008 letter and cover email.

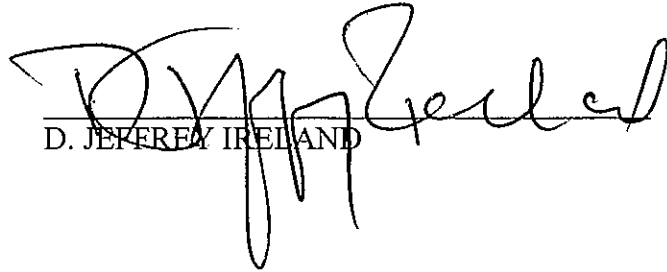
7. Counsel for Defendants and I participated in the July 15, 2008 meet and confer with Plaintiffs' counsel (Catherine MacIvor, Patrick Keegan, and Jason Baker). During the July 15, 2008 meet and confer, Plaintiffs' counsel insisted that the action should be stayed as to all Defendants (except Natura), stating that the claims against all Defendants (except Natura) are subject to the stay order issued by the District Court for the District of New Jersey in the action, In re: Pet Food Products Liability Litigation, Case No. 07-2867. Plaintiffs' counsel explained that counsel would agree to proceed with discovery only for the five named Plaintiffs who purchased Natura's products and that all discovery of other Defendants should be deferred until a later date. Although Defendants' counsel told Plaintiffs' counsel that Defendants would not agree to the requested stay, Plaintiffs' counsel agreed to prepare a plan for phased discovery that would apply whether or not the Court grants a stay.

8. After the meet and confer, through a July 18, 2008 email (at 2:51 am EST), Patrick Keegan sent a letter dated July 17, 2008 to Phil Sechler regarding Plaintiffs' proposed plan for discovery. I received a copy of the July 17, 2008 letter and cover email. Attached as Exhibit G to this Declaration are true and accurate copies of the July 17, 2008 letter and cover email.

9. Attached as Exhibit H to this Declaration is a true and accurate copy of the Short Form Notice (US) that was approved by the District Court for the District of New Jersey in its Order Granting Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement, Approval of Proposed Form of Notice, and Preliminary Certification of Settlement Class (Clerk's Dkt. No. 153 to In re Pet Food Products Liability Litigation, Case No. 07-2867).

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States and the State of Ohio that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on July 21, 2008 in Dayton, Ohio.



D. JEFFREY IRELAND

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